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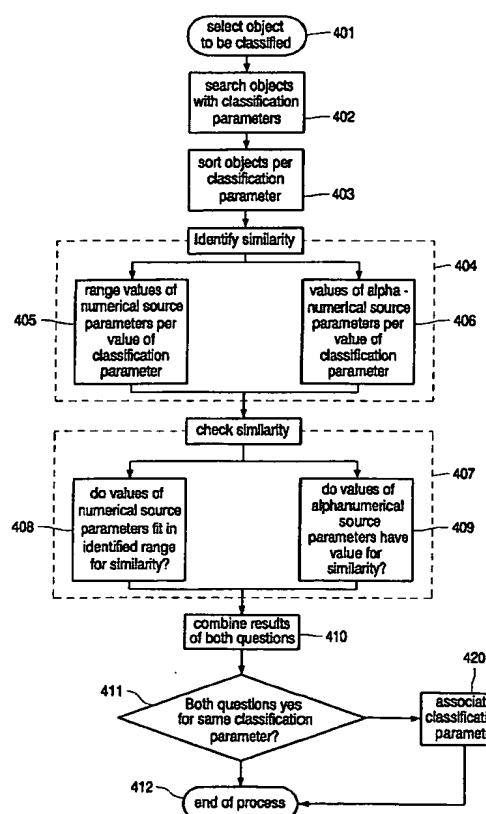
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **BODLAENDER, Maarten, P.** [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).
- (74) Agent: **GROENENDAAL, Antonius, W., M.**; Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLASSIFICATION OF A DATA OBJECT IN A DATABASE



(57) Abstract: Increasing capacity of storage media allows larger databases. This calls for efficient classification methods to enhance retrieval of data objects like pictures and films. Pictures may carry metadata related to date, time and location of creation. This helps retrieval, but combined queries hamper fast search and retrieval because lots of metadata have to be checked. The invention proposes a method of classifying the data objects by associating the data objects with classification parameters. Each classification parameter is associated with a data object when values of one or more metadata parameters fall within a certain range. Advantageous embodiments provide possibilities for automatic classification by extracting criteria for classification from the database itself. This is done by checking similarity between data objects having equal values for the classification parameter. Similarity is based on the values of the metadata related to, for example, creation of the data object.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
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## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>HEWAGAMAGE K P ET AL: "Augmented Album: situation-dependent system for a personal digital video/image collection" MULTIMEDIA AND EXPO, 2000. ICME 2000. 2000 IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW YORK, NY, USA 30 JULY-2 AUG. 2000, PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, IEEE, US, 30 July 2000 (2000-07-30), pages 323-326, XP010511463 ISBN: 0-7803-6536-4 abstract page 323, left-hand column, line 41 -page 324, right-hand column, line 43 page 325, left-hand column, line 5 -page 326, right-hand column, line 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>-/--</p>	1-18

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- \* & \* document member of the same patent family

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Boyadzhiev, Y

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A	US 6 408 301 B1 (ASHE PHILIP R ET AL) 18 June 2002 (2002-06-18) abstract column 1, line 39 -column 2, line 38 column 4, line 20 -column 4, line 39 column 7, line 65 -column 8, line 29  ---	1-18
A	EP 0 959 418 A (IBM) 24 November 1999 (1999-11-24) cited in the application abstract page 3, line 18 -page 3, line 58 page 4, line 44 -page 5, line 5 page 5, line 29 -page 5, line 50 page 6, line 58 -page 7, line 11 page 9, line 45 -page 10, line 29  -----	1-18

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Information on patent family members

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